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Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

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Overall orientation

5.1 The overall purpose of the programme is the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. The legislative authority and direction of the programme is drawn from relevant General Assembly resolutions and the decisions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was established in 1959 by the Assembly in its resolution 1472 A (XIV).

5.2 The main responsibilities carried out by the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the programme in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and decisions of the Committee are: provision of substantive secretariat services to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies; implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (resolutions 2601 A (XXIV) and 37/90); implementation of the programme of the United Nations Platform on Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) (resolution 61/110); discharging of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and related resolutions (resolutions 1721 B (XVI), 2222 (XXI), 2345 (XXII), 3235 (XXIX), 47/68, 59/115 and 62/101); and coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system (resolution 3234 (XXIX)). In addition, the Office also serves as the executive secretariat of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems and its Providers' Forum (resolution 61/111 and 64/86).

5.3 The Programme on Space Applications is mandated to promote greater cooperation and build capacity in space science and technology. The priorities of the Programme include building indigenous capability in the areas of basic space sciences, basic space technology and human space technology, and promoting the Global Navigation Satellite System and integrated space technology applications in the areas of global health, disaster management, climate change, humanitarian assistance, environmental monitoring and natural resource management.

5.4 The UN-SPIDER programme was established in response to the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses and Exploration of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) to provide universal access to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle. UN-SPIDER serves as a gateway to space-based information for disaster management support, a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities and a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries.

5.5 The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems was established in response to the recommendations of UNISPACE III to promote cooperation, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services.

5.6 The priorities and plans of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the Programme on Space Applications, UN-SPIDER and the International Committee, are reviewed and approved annually by the Committee and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space".

5.7 The Office will continue to support the efforts of the Committee to strengthen the international legal regime governing outer space by taking action to assist States in building or enhancing their capacity in space law. In addition, the Office will continue to strengthen efforts at the national, regional and global levels, including among entities of the United Nations system and international space-related entities, to maximize the benefits of the use of space science and technology and their applications.

5.8 In the contexts of World Space Week and the International Day of Human Space Flight, which have been declared by the General Assembly to be celebrated annually from 4 to 10 October (resolution 54/68) and on 12 April (resolution 65/271), respectively, the Office will further continue to raise public awareness of how space improves daily life.

5.9 Other recommendations of particular relevance to the work to be undertaken under this programme are contained in General Assembly resolutions 59/2, 62/217, 64/86 and 66/71.

Objective of the Organization: To further strengthen international cooperation among Member States and international entities in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards achieving internationally agreed sustainable development goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Greater understanding, acceptance and implementation by the international community of the legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities	(a) (i) Increased number of States and intergovernmental organizations having adhered to and/or taken action to implement the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and related resolutions (ii) Increased number of countries receiving support to build or enhance their capacity in space law
(b) Strengthened capacities of countries in using space science and technology and their applications, including Global Navigation Satellite Systems, in areas related, in particular, to sustainable development	(b) (i) Increased number of countries receiving training facilitated by the Programme in space science and technology and their applications (ii) Increased number of countries receiving support in using space science and technology and their applications (iii) Increased number of States and entities participating in activities to ensure compatibility and interoperability of space-based positioning, navigation and timing services
(c) Increased coherence and synergy in the space-related work of entities of the United Nations system and international space-related	(c) Increased number of activities with United Nations system organizations, space-related entities and industries to promote

entities in using space science and technology and their applications as tools to advance human development and increase overall capacity development	awareness, strengthen capacity and use space science and technology and their applications
(d) Greater understanding, acceptance and commitment by countries and relevant international and regional organizations regarding ways of accessing and developing the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle	(d) (i) Increased number of countries requesting and receiving systematic and continuous technical advisory assistance for using space-based solutions in disaster management plans and policies and in the implementation of risk reduction activities (ii) Increased number of emergency response communities using space-based information

Strategy

5.10 The overall strategy of the Office in meeting the objective of the programme includes:

(a) Promoting greater awareness of and strengthening the capacity to implement the international legal regime governing outer space activities, including the development of national space legislation, and promoting increased opportunities for education in space law;

(b) Strengthening capacity, in particular of the developing countries, in the use and applications of space science and technology for sustainable development and increasing awareness of decision makers of the benefits of space science and technology and their applications in addressing societal needs;

(c) Assisting in consensus-building on the peaceful uses of outer space among Governments and United Nations entities, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries engaged in space-related activities;

(d) Strengthening existing cooperative relationships and forging new partnerships to maximize the effective use of resources and identify new mechanisms for making space capabilities more readily available to all users.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

1472 A (XIV)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
1721 B (XVI)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
2222 (XXI)	Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
2345 (XXII)	Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space

2453 (XXIII)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3234 (XXIX)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3235 (XXIX)	Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space
37/90	Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
47/68	Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space
54/68	Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/2	Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/115	Application of the concept of the "launching State"
61/110	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
61/111	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
62/101	Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects
62/217	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
64/86	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
65/271	International Day of Human Space Flight
66/71	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space